

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01483 221854Z

46

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 /023 W

----- 081337

O 221815Z FEB 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 443

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR, GT

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA: DEPARTURE STATEMENT

REF: A) SECTO 04094 B) GUATEMALA 1481

1. PER REFTEL A), WILL INFORM GOG THAT SECRETARY WILL NOT HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA AS ORIGINALLY FORESEEN AND DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD. IN VIEW OF THIS DECISION, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE FOR THE SECRETARY TO MAKE BRIEF DEPARTURE STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED BELOW WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A FITTING AND APPROPRIATE ENDING TO THE SECRETARY'S TRIP HERE BY DESCRIBING IN CONCISE AND DRAMATIC FORM THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. RELIEF EFFORT, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENT FORD'S REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR AN EMERGENCY GRANT AUTHORIZATION OF 25 MILLION DOLLARS.

2. URGE SECRETARY TAKE TWO OR THREE QUESTIONS FROM THE GUATEMALAN PRESS IF THEY ARISE FOLLOWING FAREWELL STATEMENT. GOG, BURDENED AS IT IS WITH COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM EARTHQUAKE, HAS MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE TRAVELING U.S. PRESS BY INSTALLING TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR THEM. IT HAS LAID ON TWO HELICOPTERS FOR GUATEMALAN PRESS. GOOD WILL GENERATED BY SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL RUN SERIOUS RISK OF BEING MARRED BY CRITICISM FROM NEWSMEN IF THEY HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR DIALOGUE, HOWEVER BRIEF IT MAY BE.

3. TEXT OF SUGGESTED FAREWELL REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF STATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01483 221854Z

KISSINGER:

QUOTE: I HAVE BEEN MOVED YET HEARTENED BY WHAT I HAVE
SEEN IN GUATEMALA TODAY.

THE SCENES OF DESTRUCTION I SAW TODAY ARE SOMETHING
NO CAMERA CAN ENFOLD. THE LANDSCAPE OF DEVASTATION IS
TRULY STUNNING. AND THE MAGNITUDE OF DAMAGE AND HUMAN
SUFFERING IS BEYOND TELLING.

BUT THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE IS SOMETHING ONE CAN
SENSE EVEN FROM A HELICOPTER. PEOPLE WAVE THEIR GREETINGS
FROM THE GROUND. AND THEY ARE WORKING. THEY HAVE BURIED
THEIR DEAD. THEY ARE TENDING THEIR INJURED. THEY ARE
CLEARING AWAY THE RUBBLE. THEY ARE REBUILDING.

I AM PROUD THAT THE UNITED STATES, AMONG SO MANY,
PLAYED A ROLE IN HELPING GUATEMALA IN THE EMERGENCY PHASE
OF THIS GREAT TRAGEDY. WE HELPED YOU TREAT THE INJURED
AND FEED THE HUNGRY AND SHELTER THE HOMELESS.

NOW WE ARE ENTERING A NEW PHASE: RECONSTRUCTION.
AND THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO STAY ON THE JOB WITH
GUATEMALA.

WE ARE BRINGING A U.S. ARMY ENGINEER REINFORCED
COMPANY TO HELP THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS OPEN THE 50
MILE STRETCH OF THE ATLANTIC HIGHWAY BETWEEN GUATEMALA
CITY AND EL RANCHO WHICH WAS BADLY DAMAGED IN THE EARTH-
QUAKE. I UNDERSTAND THE FIRST CONTINGKT OF THE
ENGINEERS, WITH SOME OF THEIR EQUIPMENT, WILL ARRIVE
TOMORROW BY AIR. THE REST IS TO FOLLOW BY SEA AND IS
DUE IN PUERTO BARRIOS FEBRUARY 29. THE ENGINEERS TELL
ME THE ROAD WILL BE OPEN TO TRAFFIC BY THE ONSET OF THE
RAINY SEASON IN MAY, AT WHICH TIME PRIVATE GUATEMALAN
CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WILL TAKE OVER THE NEXT PHASE OF THE
LONG TASK OF RESTORING THIS VITAL ARTERY TO FULL SERVICE.

PRESIDENT FORD HAS ASKED CONGRESS FOR AN EMERGENCY
GRANT AUTHORIZATION OF \$25 MILLION SO WE CAN CONTINUE
TO HELP VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE. THIS INCLUDES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GUATEM 01483 221854Z

\$3.7 MILLION ALREADY COMMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. THE BULK OF THE
NEW MONEY WILL GO TO REPAIR HOUSING, PUBLIC SERVICES
AND TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL AREAS WHERE MORE THAN
150,000 FAMILIES LOST THEIR HOMES.

I THINK IT FITTING THAT REGULAR UNITED STATES
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING DURING THIS EMERGENCY.

TOMORROW THE UNITED STATES AND GUATEMALA WILL SIGN A SMALL FARMER DEVELOPMENT AID LOAN OF \$13 MILLION(PLUS A GRANT OF \$1.8 MILLION). THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IT IS PART OF THE LONG TERM EFFORT OF THE UNITED STATES TO HELP THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HELP THE RURAL POOR IN THIS COUNTRY. THE PROJEIY CALLS FOR LAND IMPROVEMENT THROUGH CONSERVATION METHODS. RESETTLING 5,000 FAMILIES ON NEW LAND, CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROADS, AND IMPROVEMENT OF SECTOR PLANNING AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE \$6 MILLION TO THE PROJECT WHICH IS DESIGNED TO HELP GUATEMALAN FARMERS HELP THEMSELVES.

IT IS IN KEEPING WITH THE APPEAL THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS MADE TO HIS COUNTRYMEN TO FACE THE DOUBLE CHALLENGE OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

PERICLES SAID THAT QUOTE" THE REAL DISGRACE OF POVERTY IS NOT IN OWNING TO THE FACT BUT IN DECLINING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT."

I KNOW GUATEMALA WILL NOT DECLINE THE STRUGGLE. I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO MEET YOUR PRESIDENT TODAY. HIS LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN STEADFAST AND TIMELESS IN THESE DAYS OF TRAGEDY. LET ME ASSURE YOU, AS I DID HIM, THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO HELP YOU BUILD A BETTER FUTURE KNOWING, AS WAS SAID IN DON QUIXOTE, THAT THE BRAVE MEN CARVES OUT HIS FORTUNE, AND EVERY MANY IS THE SON OF HIS OWN WORKS." END QUOTE.
MELOY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM01483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760067-0331
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760225/aaaaawce.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SECTO 4094, 76 GUATEMALA 1481
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA: DEPARTURE STATEMENT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, GT, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006